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The British Empire League in Canada.

Its Origin, Constitution and By-laws,

INCLUDING

Report of Special General Meeting,

HELD AT

OTTAWA, MARCH 4th, 1896.



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1896.

The British Empire League



OFFICES:

AT THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, E. C.



President:

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G.



Hon. Treasurer:

The Right Hon. Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P.



Chairman of Executive:

Sir Robert G. W. Herbert, G.C.B.



Secretary:

C. Freeman Murray.

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The British Empire League In Canada.

10 Equity Chambers, Adelaide St. East, Toronto.

President :

LT.-COL. GEORGE T. DENISON.

Vice-Presidents for Provinces :

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Prince Edward Island.

LT.-GOVERNOR MACKINTOSH,
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LT.-GOVERNOR DEWDNEY,
British Columbia.

Hon. Secretary :

GEORGE E. EVANS,

Hon. Treasurer :

J. T. SMALL.

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THE BRITISH EMPIRE LEAGUE IN CANADA.

ITS ORIGIN, CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

Upon the dissolution of the Council of the Imperial Federation League in England in 1894, the City of London Branch, through their President, Sir John Lubbock, requested the Canadian Branch to assist them in an endeavour to reconstruct the League upon a stronger and more durable basis, and, if possible, to confer with them as to the best means of achieving this result.

Accordingly, at the annual meeting held in Ottawa on the 29th May, 1894, the following office-bearers and members were appointed a committee, with power to add to their number, to confer with the members of the City of London Branch, with the object above set out in view, and to report upon the result of such conference:—Lt. Col. G. T. Denison, the President of the League in Canada; Sir Donald Smith, K.C.M.G., one of the Vice-Presidents of the League; Larratt W. Smith, Esq., Q.C., LL.D., the President of the Toronto Branch; George E. Evans, Esq., the Hon. Sec. of the League in Canada; H. J. Wickham, Esq., the Chairman of the Organizing Committee; Major Denison, the Secretary of the London Branch, and J. L. Hughes, Esq., one of the Council.

At a preliminary meeting of the Sub-Committee, held at Sir Donald Smith's rooms in London on July 19th, 1894, Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., G.C.M.G., who was present and expressed his willingness to act, was added to the deputation.

Upon July 20, a meeting was held in Sir John Lubbock's house of those interested in the reorganization of the Imperial Federation League. There were present to meet the Canadian deputation the following:—Sir John Lubbock (in the chair); Field Marshal Lord Roberts of Candahar; Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Westby Percival, Agent General for New Zealand; the Hon. T. A. Brassey, Messrs. C. Freeman Murray, W. Culver James, W. H. Day, W. Beckett Hill (Chairman of Organizing Committee of City of London Branch); Ralph Young, H. W. Marcus and others.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that a new organization be formed, to be called "The British Empire League," and at a subsequent meeting of the City of London Branch of the old Imperial Federation League, held in the Chamber of Commerce, the following Organizing Committee were appointed, along with the Canadian deputation, to undertake the work of the reconstruction of the League:—The Earl of Derby, Earl of Jersey, Earl of Onslow, Earl of Dunraven, Field Marshal Lord Roberts of Candahar, Lord Brassey, Lord Tennyson, Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., Sir Algernon Borthwick, Bart., M.P., Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., Sir Westby Percival, Sir Frederick Young, Major-General Ralph Young, Lt.-Col. P. R. James, Dr. W. Culver James, Messrs. F. Faithful Begg, M.P., W. Herbert Daw, E. M. Headley, W. Beckett Hill, Nevile Lubbock, Herman W. Marcus, John F. Taylor and C. Freeman Murray.

As a result of the efforts of such Organizing Committee, at a large meeting held in the Mansion House, London, on the 27th January last, and presided over by the Lord Mayor, the British Empire League was formally inaugurated, a constitution (a copy of which is appended) adopted, and the following resolution, moved by Sir John Lubbock, unanimously carried:—"That "the attention of our fellow-countrymen throughout the "Empire is invited to the recent establishment of the "British Empire League, and their support by membership and subscription is strongly recommended."

The following officers were elected:—President, the Duke of Devonshire, K.G.; Chairman of Executive, Sir Robert G. W. Herbert, G.C.B.; Hon. Treas., Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P.; Hon. Sec., C. Freeman Murray, Esq.

Upon the receipt of the above resolution of Sir John Lubbock, a special general meeting of the Imperial Federation League in Canada was held in the Tower Room, House of Commons, Ottawa, on the 4th March, 1896, to consider the annual report of the Executive Committee and the recommendation therein contained, that the League should change its name to that of the British Empire League in Canada, and affiliate with the British Empire League.

Lt.-Col. George T. Denison, President of the League, occupied the chair. Among those present were:—Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., G.C.M.G.; Sir Donald Smith, K.C.M.G.; The Hon. Arthur R. Dickey, M.P.; Senators W. J. Almon, C. A. Boulton, John Dobson, Thomas McKay, Clarence Primrose, W. D. Perley and Josiah Wood. The following members of Parliament: W. H. Bennett, G. F. Baird, T. D. Craig, G. R. R. Cockburn, Henry Cargill, George E. Casey, F. M. Carpenter, G. E. Corbould, Dr. Hugh Cameron, Emerson Coatsworth, D. W. Davis, Eugene A. Dyer, Thomas Earle, Charles Fairbairn, W. T. Hodgins, A. Haslam, Major S. Hughes, David Henderson, Charles E. Kaulbach, J. B. Mills, A. C. Macdonald, J. H. Marshall, James Masson, J. A. Mara, W. F. Maclean, D'Alton McCarthy, G. V. McInerney, John McLean, H. F. McDougall, Major R. R. MacLennan, Alex. McNeill, W. B. Northrup, Lt.-Col O'Brien, H. A. Powell, A. W. Ross, Dr. Thomas Sproule, J. Stevenson, William Smith, Lt.-Col. Tisdale, Thomas Temple, Lt.-Col. Tyrwhitt, Dr. N. W. White, R. C. Weldon, R. D. Wilmot, W. H. Hutchins, Major McGillivray, William Stubbs, J. G. Chesley, A. B. Ingram, and Messrs. S. J. Alexander, Sandford Fleming, C.M.G., N. F. Hagel, Q.C., James Johnston, Thomas Macfarlane, Archibald McGoun, C. C. McCaul, Q.C., Joseph Nelson, J. C. Pope, E. E. Sheppard, J. G. Alexander, J. Coates, Joseph

Nelson, McLeod Stewart, R. W. Shannon, Major Sherwood, Major Clark, Dr. Kingsford, Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, Prof. Robertson, Dr. Rholston, Lt.-Col. Scoble, Captain Smith, George E. Evans (Hon. Secretary), and others.

THE PRESIDENT moved the adoption of the annual report, which contained a copy of the constitution of the British Empire League, and recommended that the Canadian League affiliated with that body. He referred to the dissolution of the Council of the Imperial Federation League in London, and to the delegation which had been sent to England pursuant to the resolution passed at the annual meeting held in Ottawa in May, 1894, for the purpose of aiding to reorganize a central organization in London. He described the meeting which took place between the delegation and a number of members of the City of London Branch, at Sir John Lubbock's on the 20th July, 1894, the outcome of which was the constitution which was now before the meeting. He thanked Sir Charles Tupper for the very kind and valuable assistance he rendered to the Canadian delegation on that occasion.

The present was a most opportune time for the Colonies to unite together and aid in bringing about the consolidation of the British Empire. Reference had been made to the "splendid isolation" of the British Empire. He would like to see it firmly and closely consolidated, so that whenever any danger threatened from abroad, a firm and unbroken front would be presented to the enemy, and if any point was threatened, our full strength and power would be thrown with overwhelming force to its support.

Canada is an outpost on this continent, and in some respects is the most exposed outpost in the Empire. Its whole future is at stake in this question of having the Empire thoroughly consolidated. When that is done, the people of this country will have more confidence. Men emigrating to this country would have confidence; they would look upon its future as assured, and realize that there was no possibility of any change taking place. Men would come here knowing that they would not be

likely to have to change their allegiance, and that in case of necessity they would have the whole power of their countrymen behind them. Let the Empire be consolidated, and no matter whether she is isolated or not, no matter where the attack came from, she would be in a position to defend herself.

As to the question of changing the name of the League, he said that the Canadian delegation had urged the retention of the name Imperial Federation League, but the arguments in favor of the change were so great that they felt they had to yield to the wishes of their English brethren. The word Federation was objected to by some, and there is no doubt that to attempt to prepare a fixed and written constitution for a federated Empire, with all its divergent interests, would be a very difficult thing to do. If a dozen of the very ablest men in all the Empire were to devote any amount of time and their greatest energies to prepare a scheme for such a federation, and succeeded in making one practical and workable under existing conditions, might not ten or twenty years so change the conditions as to make a fixed written constitution very embarrassing and unsuitable? Such a method is not in accord with the genius of the British Constitution. The British Constitution is unwritten; it has "broadened down from precedent to precedent," always elastic, always adapting itself to changing conditions. So should the idea of British unity be carried out. Let us work along the lines of least resistance. The memorial included in the report urges a conference to consider the trade question. A conference might arrange some plan to carry out that one idea; in a year or two another conference could be called to consider some other point of agreement. Soon these conferences would become periodical. Soon a committee would be appointed to carry out the wishes of the conferences in the periods between the meetings; and then you would have an Imperial Council, and Imperial Federation would have become evolved in accordance with the true genius of the Anglo-Saxon race. Let us take one step at a time, and we shall slowly but surely realize our wishes.

Now was the right time to move in this matter, for the public mind was in a receptive mood. Opinion in England was fast veering in our favor. He had received a letter from a prominent member of the Imperial House of Commons, which he thought very significant, as showing a very remarkable change of feeling on the part of the English people. The letter, after alluding to recent events and the declarations of loyalty made in this country, goes on to say :—"These expressions of loyalty have greatly moved and stirred the people here, and I believe there never was a time when the people of this country were more ready than now, to meet Canada half way in the promotion of any measure for the mutual benefit of the two most important divisions of the Empire."

The Chairman concluded his remarks in the following words :—"Nothing is more encouraging than to see such a change of feeling, and while it is tending in that direction, I hope you gentlemen here—members of the League who sympathize with me in the interest and future of the great Empire to which we belong—will try and do all you can to advance this great object. Try and get beyond your party struggles occasionally, and think of this great idea of Imperial unity, and go in and work for something that will not only be of the greatest advantage to Canada, but will add great strength to the Empire."

The motion was seconded by Mr. McNeill, and carried.

CHANGING ITS NAME.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER was called upon to move the first resolution, reading as follows :—"Whereas the British Empire League has been formally inaugurated in London with practically the same objects in view as the Imperial Federation League, this meeting expresses its sympathy and concurrence therewith and resolves that hereafter the Imperial Federation League in Canada shall be a branch of the British Empire League, and shall be known and described as the British

Empire League in Canada." Sir Charles indulged in a brief retrospect regarding the formation of the Imperial Federation League in London in 1884. It was inaugurated by the late lamented the Rt. Hon. W. E. Foster, and brought in such men as Lord Rosebery and the late W. H. Smith, then leader of the House of Commons. Great attention was drawn towards the question of consolidating the Empire, and among the influences which helped to attract notice to the vital importance to the Empire of maintaining the connection between the Mother Country and her Colonies, no man's advocacy was more eloquent or more widely exerted than that of Mr. G. R. Parkin. But the more the question was discussed the greater the feeling grew that a mistake had been made in calling the movement the Imperial Federation League, and after a complete examination of the subject in all its bearings, there was a consensus of opinion, with but one exception, that the proposals for giving the Colonies representation in the Imperial Parliament were impracticable, and Lord Roseberry, who was chairman of the League, publicly expressed his regret upon more than one occasion that a term had been used which was misleading. The difficulty was overcome by the elimination of the word Federation and changing the name to British Empire League, not pointing out by what means the unity of the Empire was to be promoted in the designation. Sir Charles went on to point out how a small section of active gentlemen, seemingly losing sight of the object of securing the unity of the Empire excepting the one question of defence, turned their attention to using the Imperial Federation League mainly as a means of obtaining contributions from the various Colonies for the support of the Empire. He took exception to such views, and the difference of opinion finally culminated in the formation of a few gentlemen into what was called the Imperial Defence League. That organization was still in existence. Sir Charles said that his views in regard to the important question of naval defence would be found set forth in a recent issue of the Canadian Magazine. He thought all the subjects contained in the constitution of the

British Empire League would command the hearty approval of every person interested in the unity of the Empire. He (Sir Charles) was glad to say that he was closely identified with Sir John Lubbock, the Duke of Devonshire, and Sir Robert Herbert, the latter of whom was for many years Principal Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the formation of the new organization. He might say that the prospectus of the League was brought before the leading merchants, bankers, and capitalists of London, and an overwhelming majority had declared their adhesion to its principles. He thought it was very important that this organization had committed itself to the policy of removing the obstruction to preferential trade with Great Britain in the shape of the treaties between Belgium and Germany. Another subject dealt with in the constitution was the question of intercommunication between the Motherland and the outlying portions of the Empire. When it was remembered that Her Majesty's Government had consented to shoulder one-third of the expense of carrying out the great object for which Canada had been struggling for the last ten years, it would be seen that tremendous progress had been made. The question of naval defence was closely connected with fast and direct communication between Great Britain and this country, and he pointed out that the Lords of the Admiralty, after careful consideration, had put on record the declaration that there was no means by which for a moderate amount of money so much could be accomplished in the naval defence of the Empire and the protection of home trade as by the establishment of fast mail and passenger ships between the United Kingdom and her Colonies, which should be built under Admiralty supervision, and be capable of being instantaneously, whenever the occasion required, converted into Royal Naval Reserve war cruisers. There was no means that Canada could use for the defence of the Empire so effective as defending itself, and every dollar spent in this way would be spent to good purpose. Sir Charles concluded by reading a few sentences from a letter written to him by Mr. James Lowther, President of the United

Empire Trade League, in which the latter said he was glad to learn from Sir Charles' public utterances that he was plainly putting before the people of Canada the fact that recent events were rapidly making for the establishment of preferential trade relations within the Empire.

MR. MCCARTHY, in seconding the resolution, said that he was happy to find that his resignation of the presidency, due to the suggestion of Principal Grant—that the fact of his holding the office was deterring their fellow-subjects from joining—had not alienated any of the members. He should still maintain the same interest as before in the League, though serving only as a private. He recalled a conversation he had with the late Mr. W. E. Forster, when that distinguished statesman said that were it not for the difficulty of giving home rule to Ireland the object of the League could be accomplished within twelve months. He (Mr. Foster) thought that if there could be established an Imperial Parliament at Westminster, with subordinate Parliaments in Ireland and in the United Kingdom, it would have been quite within the reach of statesmen to have caused that representation to have embodied people from the Colonies. It was quite clear now that in that idea the distinguished statesman, and those who followed him in Canada, were mistaken. The trouble was, the League had proceeded too fast. No mistake was, however, made in forming the League, because at that time, twelve years ago, the feeling was towards independence or annexation. The League did very much to divert public feeling in the direction in which it was now running. As to the treaties between Great Britain and other countries, he did not look upon them as an obstruction, but as an impediment. For his part, he was prepared to do anything to advance Canadian trade relations with England at once, without postponing it until those treaties were terminated by Great Britain. Finally he declared himself ready to do all he could to further the consolidation of the Empire.

MR. A. McNEILL, M.P., said:—"I confess some remarks that have been made to-day have surprised me very much. While I have always been one of those who disliked the term Imperial Federation, I did not dislike that term because I was satisfied that nothing in the nature of representation from the Colonies in the Imperial chamber could ever come about. I doubted the wisdom of that term, because I thought that in the minds of many people it implied that that must come about; that bringing that about was the only course we intended to pursue. When the constitution of the British Empire League was brought to our notice at Toronto—I think my friend Mr. McGoun was there at the time—there was not a suggestion made that while we were willing to drop the term Federation, in doing so we pledged ourselves to the view that a representation at some date or other from the Colonies in an Imperial chamber was an impossibility, yet that is what I understood the Secretary of State to say, to be the ground."

SIR CHARLES TUPPER:—"What I said was this: that after the fullest examination by gentlemen of both the great political parties in England, Lord Rosebery declared at a public meeting in the Mansion House, with the Lord Mayor in the chair, that an examination of the question had led the friends of the Imperial Federation League to the conclusion that anything like promoting the unity of the Empire by representation of the Colonies in the Imperial Parliament was impracticable. Of course, it binds no person in Canada or England; but he gave that to the public as the maturer sentiment of these gentlemen of both parties who were concerned in carrying on the Imperial Federation League in England."

MR. McNEILL:—"If it was understood that the word 'federation' was struck out on the ground that we abandoned the idea of any Colonial representation in an Imperial chamber, then we were abandoning a principle we at one time laid down."

SEVERAL MEMBERS:—"We don't say so. That is Lord Rosebery's view."

MR. MCNEILL:—"For my part, I do not abandon it. I am glad to drop the word 'federation,' because all along I doubted the expediency of using it; but I do not pledge myself to drop the use of the term on that consideration."

MR. THOMAS MACFARLANE:—"I am sorry that the name Imperial Federation is to be abandoned; but, since it seems to be the wish of the majority, I must submit to the inevitable. Although Imperial Federation is not immediately obtainable, it seems to me that it should not be abandoned at once."

SIR DONALD SMITH:—"Having had the privilege of being present at a meeting in London, as mentioned by the Chairman, with Sir John Lubbock and others, I may say that it is the case that those from Canada, and representing Canada, at that meeting very strenuously contended for the retention of the old title; but after very seriously considering the matter, it was felt that it was much better to unite with our English friends in adopting the new title. I think we are quite safe in adopting a new name, and that in doing so we do not give up anything we contended for before. I have no doubt we are all, both in England and here, just as earnestly desirous under the new name of holding to the unity of the Empire, and of supporting it in every way, and it will have that effect just as much now as before the change."

In deference to the views of Messrs. McNeill and Macfarlane, it was decided that the Association, as a new organization, should adopt the report of the Imperial Federation League, presented at the beginning of the meeting, and so indorse the principles it contained.

At this point the President read a cablegram he had received from Mr. Freeman Murray, Secretary of the League in England, wishing the Canadian Branch God speed.

The adoption of the constitution, by-laws and rules for the governance of branches, copies of which are given hereunder, was then moved by G. R. R. Cockburn, Esq., M.P., seconded by Thomas S. Sproule, Esq., M.D., M.P., and carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Sandford Fleming, seconded by Dr. Sproule, M.P., and carried:—"That the Officers, Council and Executive Committee of the Imperial Federation League in Canada be elected Officers, Council and Executive Committee of the British Empire League in Canada."

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association to be called "The British Empire League in Canada."

2. It shall be the primary object of the League to secure the permanent unity of the Empire.

3. The following to be among the other principal objects of the League :

(a) To promote trade between the United Kingdom, the Colonies and India, and to advocate the holding of periodical meetings of representatives from all parts of the Empire for the discussion of matters of general commercial interest, and the consideration of the best means of expanding the national trade.

(b) To consider how far it may be possible to modify any laws or treaties which impede freedom of action in the making of reciprocal trade arrangements between the United Kingdom and the Colonies, or between any two or more British Colonies or Possessions.

(c) To promote closer intercourse between the different portions of the Empire by the establishment of cheaper, and, where required, more direct steam and telegraphic communication, preference being given to routes not traversing foreign territory.

(d) To develop the principles on which all parts of the Empire may best share in its general defence, endeavoring to bring into harmony public opinion at Home and in the Colonies on this subject, and to devise a perfect co-operation of the military and naval forces of the Empire with a special view to the due protection of the trade routes.

(e) To assimilate, as far as local circumstances permit, the laws relating to copyright, patents, legitimacy and bankruptcy throughout the Empire.

4. The League shall use every constitutional means to bring about the objects for which it is established, and shall invite the support of men of all shades of political opinion throughout the Empire.

5. The League shall advocate the establishment of periodical conferences to deal with such questions as may appear ripe for consideration, on the lines of the London Conference of 1887 and the Ottawa Conference of 1894.

6. The membership shall be open to any British subject who accepts the principles of the League and pays a yearly subscription of at least one dollar.

7. The League shall meet annually in one of the principal cities of Canada, the time and place of meeting for each year to be selected by the Executive Committee.

8. The business of the League shall be conducted by a Council and Executive Committee, to be appointed at the annual meeting, and with power to add to their number. The Council and Executive Committee shall have charge of the work of the League in Canada; they shall adopt such means as they may find expedient to promote the objects of the League, and they shall furnish a report at the annual meeting.

9. The co-operation of men of all political parties in every part of Canada is sought for the establishment of branches, which shall have power to elect representatives on the Council.

10. The officers of the League to be a President, two Vice-Presidents for each Province, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer.

FORMATION OF BRANCHES.

1. British subjects who sympathize with the objects of the League are invited to enrol themselves as members, and to take steps for the formation of Branches in their localities.

2. One of the chief objects to be gained by the formation of Branches is that they may become centres for the diffusion of information relative to the aims and progress of the League, and the nature and resources of the different parts of the Empire, in order that by such means the precise nature of the objects of the League may be more thoroughly explained and understood, its membership increased, and its general interests more efficiently promoted.

3. A Branch may be formed in any city, town, village or municipality of the Dominion, and shall consist of at least twenty members. Branches are requested to take the name of the city, town, village or county in which they are formed, and not that of the Province, as the latter would be unfair to any other Branch which might subsequently be formed in the Province.

4. Any British subject who accepts the principles of the League, and pays to any such Branch a yearly subscription of at least one dollar, shall become a member of the British Empire League in Canada.

5. The Secretaries of Branches are requested to communicate regularly with the General Secretary of the League in Canada, and in forwarding returns to report the progress of the Branch for the information of the Executive.

6. Branches may elect representatives to the Council of the League in Canada, and every Branch of not less than thirty members shall have the right of electing

one of its members to serve on the Executive Committee of the League.

The following rules are suggested for the conduct of Branches :—

1. The conditions of membership and fees and subscriptions shall be in accordance with the foregoing rules.

2. The officers shall consist of: A Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Committee of Members.

3. The Chairman, or in his absence, a Vice-Chairman, or temporary Chairman, shall preside at all meetings of the Branch.

4. The Treasurer shall receive from the Secretary all subscriptions paid to the Branch, and shall disburse the same under the direction of the Committee. He shall submit a financial statement to the annual meeting of the Branch—the same to be duly audited by auditors appointed by the Committee or the Branch.

5. The Secretary shall collect all subscriptions, issuing certificates for the same, and deliver the money so obtained to the Treasurer. He shall carry on the correspondence and conduct the business of the Branch, and submit a report to the annual meeting.

6. The annual meeting for the reception of reports and election of officers shall be held in the month of _____, unless the Committee appoint another time, and general meetings may be called for the reading of papers or transaction of business when determined by the Committee.

7. Seven members shall form a quorum of the Branch, and three a quorum of the Committee.

8. Secretaries shall endeavor to get good notices of all meetings of the League and information about its progress elsewhere inserted in the local newspapers, and send two copies of all such notices to the General Secretary.

The following document was received from the head office of the league on the 4th May, 1896.

BRITISH EMPIRE LEAGUE.

Extract from the Minutes of the Executive Committee of the British Empire League held on April 21st, 1896, presided over by the Hon. Sir Robert Herbert, G.C.B. (Chairman.)

The Secretary having read the minutes of a special general meeting of the Imperial Federation League in Canada held in the Tower Room, House of Commons, Ottawa, on Wednesday, March 4th, 1896, the President, Lieut. Col. George T. Denison, in the chair, and attended by over fifty members of the Dominion Parliament at which the following resolution was proposed by the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., G.C.M.G., C.B., M.P. (Canada), seconded by Mr. D'Alton McCarthy, Q.C., M.P. (Canada), and carried unanimously :—"That whereas the British Empire League has been formally inaugurated in London with practically the same objects in view as the Imperial Federation League, this meeting expresses its sympathy therewith, and resolves that hereafter the Imperial Federation League in Canada shall be a branch of the British Empire League and shall be known and described as the British Empire League in Canada."

The following resolution was unanimously agreed to :—"That the Executive Committee of the British Empire League record their hearty appreciation of the action taken by the Imperial Federation League in Canada at its meeting at Ottawa on Wednesday, March 4th, 1896, and hereby declare that body to be affiliated to the Parent League under the title of the British Empire League in Canada."

